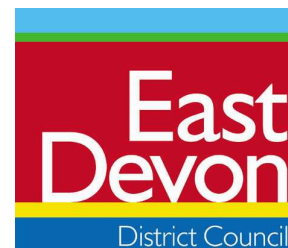




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

16 July 2007

COUNCIL IS SUCCESSFUL IN BID FOR LOTTERY MONEY

EDDC allocated over £200K for young people in East Devon

YOUNG people in East Devon will be jumping for joy to hear that East Devon District Council has, on behalf of a multi-agency team, been allocated £204,465 from the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme Fund. The Council submitted a detailed bid for the money, which will be used to develop, create, improve and design innovative children's play facilities throughout the district.

In line with the newly adopted Play Strategy, bringing the Council and its partners together to look at play opportunities in the district; and following extensive consultation with young people in East Devon, the Council has now got the green light to support three projects which will be phased in over the next two years.

Rural Multi Play Five all-weather play surfaces will be created, one in each of Colyton, Feniton, Lypstone, Dunkeswell and Otterton. Each village will be given a tennis court size (370 sq m) surfaced area suitable for a wide range of uses, such as football, badminton, basketball, cycle/skate/inline track, cricket, etc. The specific choice of layout will be for young people in each of the villages to decide.

Mobile Play The grant will pay for two part-time Play Advisors who will introduce a 'mobile' scheme, taking play skills, play kit, and expertise out to villages, to help families run their own events. Working with children and parents, the Advisors will be on hand to encourage communities and families to have more involvement in the creative use of the spaces available, thereby reducing real and perceived problems, preventing anti-social behaviour and, most importantly, learning how to deal with problem situations that may arise.

Environmental Play Trail Funds will be used for a play trail for older children, with special emphasis on use by those with disabilities. The trail will be built within the new nature reserve at Battishorne, Honiton and through careful and imaginative design, will include special equipment

allowing the disabled users and carers to take part in the activities alongside their non-disabled friends.

Ishbel Ramsay, the Council's Arts Development Officer, who will coordinate the projects, says: "This is a very exciting time for young people in East Devon. I will be seeking their input in all these ventures, so that we provide the facilities and activities that they want".

Councillor Jill Elson, Portfolio Holder Communities, says: "A lot of hard work went into raising this money and not only am I delighted for the young people who will benefit from the funding, but also for the team who put the bid together. I would like to remind people that The Big Lottery also has an additional fund, Playful Ideas, for which communities themselves can apply. This money will be directed at projects that look at innovative ways of addressing an identified need within the field of children's play. I look forward to hearing what projects are put forward to further help communities in East Devon."

Ends

For information, please contact:

Ishbel Ramsay, Arts Development Officer on 01395 517507

East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Nick Stephen, Communications Officer on 01395 517559

East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk